

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A combination tool for cutting drywall and measuring drywall during a cut utilizing a tape measure having a blade, said tool comprising:

first and second housing portions forming a mount when assembled, said mount having a path defined therein by said first and second housing portions with said path terminating at an opening between said first and second housing portions at one end of said mount, a tape measure blade receiving slot defined in said mount by said first and second housing portions and located in said one end of said mount adjacent to said path;

first and second resilient clips each receivable at a different one of ~~at~~ said first and second housing portions, respectively, ~~adjacent to said slot defined in said mount and configured to further define said slot when said first and second housing portions are assembled so that a tape measure blade received in said slot for combined use of the tape measure and said tool during a cut is cooperatively releasably gripped between said resilient clips grip a tape measure blade received in said slot; and~~

a knife blade shuttle selectively movable along said path defined at said mount; ~~and~~

~~a saw blade pivotably connected in an opposite end of said mount from said one end.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim 1 wherein said mount has a head portion at said one end of said mount and a handle portion, said head portion enlarged in at least one dimension relative to said handle portion and characterized by a surface area progressively angularly diverging from said handle portion, said tape measure blade receiving slot being located through said surface area of said head portion of said mount, and said surface area of said head portion of said mount being extensive ~~expansive~~ relative to width of said handle portion.

3. (Previously Presented) The combination tool of claim 2 wherein said surface area is curvilinear and characterized by surface irregularity for resisting slip.

4. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim 1 ~~wherein said slot and said path are oriented relative to one another in a substantially coplanar relationship~~ further comprising a saw blade pivotably connected in an opposite end of said mount from said one end.

5. (Previously Presented) The combination tool of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second housing portions includes an exterior surface characterized by a plurality of rasp teeth.

6. (Previously Presented) The combination tool of claim 2 wherein said knife blade shuttle includes a blade holding portion and a manually manipulable portion extending away from said blade holding portion and accessible at said mount at a position spaced from said head portion, said combination tool further comprising lock-out means in said mount and cooperative with said manually manipulable portion of said knife blade shuttle for prohibiting movement of knife blade shuttle in a preselected circumstance.

7. (Previously Presented - Allowed) A hand tool for measuring and cutting comprising;

a mount including a handle portion and a head portion, a linear path formed therein between a terminus in said handle portion and an opening from said head portion, a tape measure blade receiving slot defined in said head portion and oriented so that said slot and said linear path are substantially coplanar;

a saw blade pivotably connected at said handle portion of said mount;

a cam operatively held in said handle portion of said mount and cooperative with said saw blade at one part and having an accessible part extending through said mount, operation of said cam required for release of said saw blade from securement at either a stored orientation or a fully extended orientation; and

a knife blade shuttle selectively movable along said linear path formed in said mount between said terminus and said opening, said knife blade shuttle including a manipulable portion accessible through said handle portion of said mount for slidably moving said shuttle along said linear path and for selectively engaging said accessible part of said cam for operating said cam.

8. (Previously Presented - Allowed) The hand tool of claim 7 wherein said saw blade is connected in said handle portion of said mount at an end thereof opposite said head portion of said mount, wherein said one part of said cam is a first leg and wherein said accessible part of said cam is an opposite leg, operation of said cam allowing pivoting movement of said saw blade to the other of said stored orientation or said fully extended orientation and resecurement thereat.

9. (Previously Presented - Allowed) The hand tool of claim 8 wherein said knife blade shuttle includes a

blade holding portion having said manipulable portion extending away therefrom, said manipulable portion accessible at a position spaced from said head portion and including a recess therein engageable with said opposite leg of said cam when said knife blade shuttle is moved to said terminus in said handle portion for operating said cam to allow movement of said saw blade.

10. (Previously Presented - Allowed) The hand tool of claim 8 wherein said saw blade includes a mounting base for pivotable connection at said handle portion of said mount, said mounting base having first and second detents positioned thereabout at locations corresponding to said stored orientation and said fully extended orientation of said saw blade, respectively, and engageable by said first leg of said cam, said cam including means for biasing said first leg of said cam toward engagement with said detents at said mounting base of said saw blade.

11. (Previously Presented - Allowed) The hand tool of claim 7 further comprising a divider in said mount between said knife blade shuttle and said saw blade.

12. (Previously Presented - Allowed) The hand tool of claim 11 further comprising a magnetic strip located at said handle portion of said mount at a side of said

divider opposite said saw blade for holding a replacement blade usable in said knife blade shuttle.

13. (Previously Presented - Allowed) The hand tool of claim 7 wherein said head portion of said mount includes a surface adjacent to said slot, said surface having striations formed therein for resisting slip.

14. (Currently Amended) A combination tool for cutting drywall comprising:

first and second housing portions forming a mount when assembled, said mount having a path defined therein by said first and second housing portions with said path terminating at an opening between said first and second housing portions at one end of said mount, a tape measure blade receiving slot being defined in said mount by said first and second housing portions and located in said one end of said mount adjacent to said path, an access at said mount being defined by said first and second housing portions at a position spaced from said one end of said mount, and an exterior surface of said mount being characterized by a plurality of rasp teeth thereat for filing, one of said first and second housing portions including a plurality of detents positioned to be adjacent to said path defined in said mount;

first and second resilient clips at said first and second housing portions, respectively, adjacent to said slot defined in said mount and configured to cooperatively grip a tape measure blade received in said slot; and

a knife blade shuttle selectively movable along said path defined in said mount and including a blade holding portion and a manually manipulable portion extending away from said blade holding portion, said manually manipulable portion having a slide including a recess therein and a resilient arm between said blade holding portion and said slide, said slide accessible through said access at said mount, a dog located between said slide and said arm releasably engageable in said detents of said one of said first and second housing portions;-

a saw blade pivotably connected in an opposite end of said mount from said one end; and

a cam having one leg and an opposite leg maintained at one of said first and second housing portions and cooperative with said saw blade at said one leg thereof and accessible at said opposite leg thereof through said mount adjacent to said access at said position spaced from said one end of said mount, said cam including biasing means for biasing said one leg of said cam toward

engagement with said saw blade while biasing said opposite leg of cam through said mount, wherein said recess of said slide of said manually manipulable portion of said knife blade shuttle is engageable with said opposite leg of said cam when said knife blade shuttle is moved to a retracted position for selectively operating said cam against bias of said biasing means by depressing said slide to allow movement of said saw blade.

15. (Previously Presented) The combination tool of claim 14 wherein at least one of said first and second housing portions includes at least a first guideway, and wherein said knife blade shuttle includes a guide, said guideway and said guide cooperatively containing movement of said knife blade shuttle.

16. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim ~~20~~ 14 wherein said mount has a head portion at said one end of said mount and a handle portion. ~~one of said first and second housing portions includes a plurality of detents positioned to be adjacent to said path defined in said mount, and wherein said knife blade shuttle includes a blade holding portion and a manually manipulable portion extending away from said blade holding portion, said manually manipulable portion having a resilient arm~~

~~between said blade holding portion and a slide accessible through an access at said mount defined by said first and second housing portions at a position spaced from said one end of said mount, a dog located between said slide and said arm releasably engageable in said detents of said one of said first and second housing portions.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim ~~16~~ 14 further comprising a divider in said mount between said knife blade shuttle and said saw blade. ~~cam maintained at one of said first and second housing portions and cooperative with said saw blade at one leg thereof and accessible at an opposite leg thereof through said mount adjacent to said access at said position spaced from said one end of said mount, said cam including biasing means for biasing said one leg of said cam toward engagement with said saw blade while biasing said opposite leg of cam through said mount, said slide of said manually manipulable portion of said knife blade shuttle including a recess therein engageable with said opposite leg of said cam when said knife blade shuttle is moved to a retracted position for selectively operating said cam against bias of said biasing means by depressing said slide to allow movement of said saw blade.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim ~~20~~ 14 wherein said rasp teeth are formed transversely at one of said housing portions and oriented directionally to carry material away from said opening at said one end of said mount.

19. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim ~~20~~ 14 wherein said saw blade is mounted at one of said first and second housing portions at the interior of said mount, said saw blade pivotable from a stored orientation within said mount to a fully extended orientation through an elongated space defined in said mount between said first and second housing portions.

20. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim 16 wherein said head portion is enlarged in at least one dimension relative to said handle portion and is characterized by a surface area progressively angularly diverging from said handle portion, said tape measure blade receiving slot being located through said surface area of said head portion of said mount. ~~14 wherein an exterior surface of said mount is characterized by a plurality of rasp teeth thereat for filing.~~